State/UT	No. of farmers Covered
Assam	1401
Goa	52
Gujarat	14187
Himachal Pradesh	191
Kerala	22452
Madhya Pradesh	186930
Maharashtra	124869
Orissa	267124
Pondicherry	336
TOTAL	617542

Recurring Drought in Andhra Pradesh

1261. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to negotiate with World Bank Mission for Rs. 100 crore aid to find a lasting solution to the problem of recurring drought in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when the aid is likely to percolate; and

(c) the action taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government has reportedly not sent any formal proposal to the World Bank for sanction of emergency assistance to tackle drought.

Prices of Horticultural Produce

1262. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rates of coconut, Areccanut and such other horticulture produces have come down because of the import policy of Government; and

(b) whether Government are reconsidering to put a ban on indiscreet import of agricultural produces which are adversely affecting Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The prices of some of the agricultural commodities have declined during the year, for various reasons. Being a signatory to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India is committed to the removal of all non-tariff barriers, *inter alia*, on the import and export of agricultural commodities *viz.* quantitative restrictions, export/ import licensing etc. This is in the process of being phased out. As such *w.e.f.* the 1st April, 2001, the import of agricultural commodities shall be regulated only through the imposition of appropriate tariffs thereon. The tariff levels have been bound by India for the primary agricultural products, processed agricultural products and edible oils with a few exceptions at 100%, 150% and 300% respectively. There is thus, considerable flexibility under WTO agreement on agriculture for imposing appropriate tariffs on import of agricultural products within the bound levels for protecting the interests of farmers.

Rescue package of NERAMAC

1263. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of establishment and details of ongoing programme of North Eastern Region Agriculture and Marketing Corporation;

(b) whether a 10.36 cr. Rescue package of NERAMAC was considered by Government;

(c) if so, details of the package and its implementation status;

(d) whether dismal performance of NERAMAC in the recent past was evaluated; and

(e) if so, outcome thereof and action contemplated to activate the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) The list of establishments of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) is as under:

(i) Registered/Head Office: R.G. Barua Road, Ganeshguri, Guwahati—781005.

(ii) Fruit Juice Concentration Plant, Nalkata, Tripura.